

ART Board Meeting Minutes

9 March 2023

ART Board members: F. Seymour, W. Bumpers, L. Ruiz, P. D. Sherpa, P. Umunay, J. Verdieck

Absent: C. Nobre, R. F. Adjei

ART Secretariat: M. Grady, C. Magerkurth, F. Paniagua, L. Madrid, A. Takimoto, B. Hemphill

ART Board members held their first quarterly meeting of 2023. Topics discussed included review of previous meeting minutes, ART Participant updates, ART operations, Costa Rica's variance request, discussion of potential nesting options, and planning for the in-person Board meeting in June.

1. Welcome and Agenda

INFORMATION

The Board Chair welcomed the Board members and the Secretariat to the 2023 First Quarter meeting. The Board Chair reiterated her appreciation of the new Board members', Peter Umunay and John Verdieck, willingness to join the ART Board.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

INFORMATION

The Secretariat shared draft meeting minutes from the 15 December 2022 ART Board meeting.

DISCUSSION

- The Board requested attendance be corrected.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM: The ART Secretariat will revise Board attendance. The Board approved the meeting minutes with the requested update.

2. ART Participant Updates

INFORMATION

The Secretariat presented a comprehensive summary of ART Participant updates in the Board Book and highlighted a few during the meeting. This included discussions regarding recent updates on Ecuador, Peru and Kenya.

The Secretariat also presented on the pipeline of Programs registered under ART. While specific timelines are not required, the Secretariat shared updates on progress from different countries. This included updates on potential validations and verifications scheduled to begin in 2023.

Finally, the Secretariat presented on trends occurring in discussions with Participants. These included:

- Interest in understanding demand and obtaining a premium price
 - Exploring buyers other than LEAF
 - Understanding pricing trends
 - Co-benefits certification under ART

- Support
 - Funding for technical support or capacity building often requested to close gaps
 - Peer to peer networking options

DISCUSSION

- The Board asked clarifying questions about some of the Participant updates in the Board Book and in the presentation.
- The Board requested that the Secretariat consider clarifications and updated templates to help address challenges that Participants and other stakeholders have faced.
- The Board continued discussions about approaches, procedures and lessons learned from the first issuance of TREES Credits to Guyana.
- The Board discussed current trends in discussions with Participants.
- The Board discussed how the Secretariat can facilitate peer to peer networking groups.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS:

Action Items: The Secretariat will consider structural changes to documents and the development of peer networking groups.

3. ART Operation Updates

INFORMATION

The Secretariat provided information to the Board regarding updates on developing an ART co-benefit certification, attendance at conferences and meetings, and other operations.

DISCUSSION

- The Board asked what the anticipated challenges were with developing a co-benefit certification.
- The Board asked clarifying questions pertaining to co-benefit certification, how the working groups were being formed and how progress would be communicated to the Board throughout the process.
- The Board discussed proactive follow-ups from conferences and their own experiences at the events.
- The Board discussed other operations and provided information on upcoming in-person meetings.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS:

Action Item: The Secretariat will share documentation pertaining to co-benefit certification working groups as appropriate throughout the process.

4. Variance Request

The Secretariat presented information on Costa Rica’s variance request regarding the timing of their TREES Monitoring Report submission as their national data collection cycle does not align with the 5-year ART cycle.

The Secretariat also proposed that the Board review process be modified such that the Board conducts in-depth review of any variance request that affects the substance of a program’s submittal but not administrative requests like document submission timelines.

DISCUSSION:

- The Board discussed Costa Rica’s Variance request.

- The Board supports the Secretariat’s recommendation to grant the variance request for Costa Rica.
- The Board discussed the proposed modification to the Board’s variance review process.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS:

Decisions: The Board voted to approve Costa Rica’s variance request.

Decisions: The Board agreed to the proposed modification to the approval process for variance requests. The Board requested the Secretariat allow for two weeks for a decision as well as a summary of the variance to help the Board evaluate the request if being submitted for an email vote.

5. Nesting Options

The Secretariat presented on the challenge faced by jurisdictions with projects that are not nested and issuing credits under other GHG programs. The Secretariat discussed options for nesting that could be possible under TREES.

DISCUSSION:

- The Board discussed the nesting options.
- The Secretariat proposed developing a more detailed analysis of the options and if appropriate, holding a special Board meeting to discuss the nesting options in more depth.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS:

Action Item: The Secretariat will prepare additional information and if appropriate, schedule a special Board meeting to discuss nesting options.

6. Planning for June Meeting

The Secretariat presented several topics to be potentially discussed at the June Board meeting. These included an update on the co-benefits certification work, IC VCM, Stakeholder engagement, Market and ART updates, and nesting options.

DISCUSSION:

- The Board supported the working list and does not have other topics to be included.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS:

Action Item: The Secretariat will propose dates for a June meeting and develop the agenda.